

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 282

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Jo Ann Yates upon being named a Diamond of Distinction by the American Lung Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Yates of Chattanooga is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, inspired by Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, the American Lung Association in Tennessee is hosting its own special Diamond Celebration honoring women whose lives exemplify the spirit and intent of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, just as Queen Elizabeth II has led her country for decades and continues to rule, Jo Ann Yates has been an active volunteer and public servant for decades and continue to be a pillar of her community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Yates has been a vital, caring, giving part of her community and state for many years, and she remains an active force and doer of good deeds today; and

WHEREAS, her work with children and families is broad and diverse, with roots coming from her hands-on volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Yates has been an eager and compassionate public servant since an early age, and she has provided dedicated service to the Siskin Children's Institute, the Children's Advocacy Center, the Foster Care and Review Board, the Hamilton County Community Service Agency, and the Creative Discovery Museum; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Yates is never far from her first love: children with needs. Her passion for and expertise in this area drew the attention of Governor Phil Bredesen, who appointed her to the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth; and

WHEREAS, after her husband, Walter Cline, died in 1984, Mrs. Yates began to consider ways to honor his memory; she became interested in Siskin Rehabilitation Hospital and pursued the idea of the Walter Cline Chair of Excellence in Rehabilitation Technology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC); her determination in establishing this chair has led to a doctoral program being offered in physical therapy at UTC; and

WHEREAS, she has served as a Trustee of the UC Foundation, the UC Endowment Committee, and the UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Yates served on the Tennessee Blue Ribbon Commission for Higher Education at the behest of Governor Don Sundquist; as one of only two women among CEOs and academics serving on the Commission, she was a strong advocate for doctoral programs at UTC and her work laid the groundwork for future Ph.D programs; and

WHEREAS, an adventurous person by nature, she earned her pilot's license at the age of seventeen and founded and led the first Winged Girl Scout Troop in Tennessee. She also enjoys mountain climbing and traveling and fishing in Montana, Wyoming, Argentina, and Iceland; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Mrs. Yates is most appreciative of the love and companionship she shares with her husband, Pierce, and her children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Yates is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Jo Ann Yates upon being named a Diamond of Distinction by the American Lung Association for her "decades of doing" and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.